

imens of both species from several localities in the West Indies, and the characters described in the books do not hold good to separate them. It is a pity that some naturalist has not examined the animals.

It is also doubtful if *C. exusta* Sowerby, and *C. talpa*, Linn, are distinct. I have a specimen of the typical *C. exusta* from Mr. Sowerby, and another which I received from Mr. Damon, of Weymouth, England, seems to me to connect the two species. Weinkauff may be right in making *C. exusta* a variety of *C. talpa*.

The opinion held by some that *C. decipiens* Smith, was a dwarf variety of *C. thersites* Gaskoin, has been definitely set at rest by Mr. Sowerby receiving last summer, a number of fine specimens of *C. decipiens* from Australia. I was fortunate enough to obtain one of them—probably the first specimen that has reached America. It is certainly a good species, and one of the most beautiful of all the Cypræas. The palm of beauty probably lies between it and *C. aurantium* Martyn. By the way, the fabulous prices given for the last-named shell are things of the past. Instead of costing anywhere from \$50 to \$100, a good specimen can be obtained for \$15, and the finest kind of one for \$20 to \$22. It is no longer a rare species, but can readily be obtained from any of the prominent shell-dealers of Europe.

Philadelphia, April 10, 1889.

THE SHELL-BEARING MOLLUSCA OF RHODE ISLAND.

BY HORACE F. CARPENTER.

Chapter XLV.

SUB-ORDER INTEGRI-PALLIATA.

Siphons short, not retractile; pallial impression simple, without sinus. This sub-order, contains fifteen families.

FAMILY CYRENIDÆ.

Shell regular, oval or sub-trigonal, covered with an epidermis; hinge with two or three teeth in each valve; lateral teeth, two, simple or striated; ligament external; pallial impression simple, or with a short sinus.

This family has been made the special study of Mr. Temple Prime, a lawyer of N. Y. City, who is authority on this subject. He published, in 1865, a monograph of the species inhabiting the American Continent, illustrated with figures and giving all the synonyms, localities and other items of interest concerning them. In 1871 he published a catalogue of all the species in the world (of this family), known to date. He divided it into six genera and three hundred and twenty-two species, of which one hundred and eleven are American. There are now recognized seven genera and nearly four hun-

dred species. Four genera are represented in America, three in the U. S., and two in New England.

Genus *Sphaerium*, Scopoli.

The genus *Sphaerium* was characterized under its present name by Scopoli in 1777. It has borne some fourteen different names, but has been better known to conchologists, especially in Europe, by the name of *Cyclas*, given by Bruguière in 1792. Gray revived the name of *Sphaerium* in 1847, and Mr. Prime was the first in America to recognize its claims. There are seventy-five species distributed world-wide; they are found in rivers, ponds, lakes and ditches, in fact, in all bodies of fresh water, but are more abundant in species and in individuals in the northern parts of our country than in any other section of the world. Four species inhabit Rhode Island, and possibly more.

170.—*Sphaerium partumeium* Say.

I shall not attempt to give the synonymy of this, or any of the species of this genus, or of the next to follow; it would be a wearisome and a thankless task; these shells are so little known, and the animals inhabiting them have been so little studied that the synonymy is but an entangled mass of errors. For the benefit of those who might desire to study deeper into the subject, and to post themselves in regard to the views of authors who have written upon it, I would refer them to Prime's "Monograph of American Corbiculidæ," published by the Smithsonian Institution, at Washington, D. C., 1865.

Sphaerium partumeium was first described by Say in Journ. Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia, ii, 380, 1822, under the name of *Cyclas partumeia*. It is distributed all over the U. S., east of the Rocky Mountains, and its habitat is in stagnant pools and muddy ponds. The animal is of a delicate pink, and the syphonal tubes of the same color. The shell is rounded-oval, thin, fragile and pellucid; nearly equilateral; beaks central, calyculate approximate at the apex; epidermis glossy, light greenish or bluish in color; interior of valves light blue; hinge margin nearly straight, curving gradually into the anterior margin, but curving behind, so as to form an obtuse angle, causing the posterior side to appear broader; cardinal teeth strong; lateral teeth much elongated. The young shells are more compressed than the adult, and are of a light yellow color. Length of shell, 9-20, height, 2-5, breadth, 4-15 of an inch.

(To be continued.)

NUMEROUS publications received will be noticed in our next number.